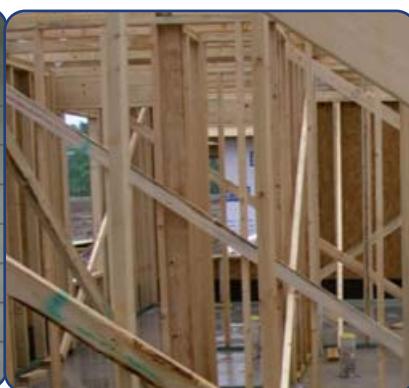




USDA Rural Development

Louisiana Progress Report 2010



Committed to the future of rural communities.

USDA Rural Development Projects



“The USDA Rural Development Mission: To increase economic opportunity and improve the quality of life for all rural Americans.”



The 10th Year Celebration of Avoyelles Public Charter School
USDA Rural Development invested over \$12 million in this project

Committed to the future of rural development



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Committed to the future of rural communities.

Tom Vilsack
Agriculture Secretary
United States Department of Agriculture



“USDA Rural Development funding made an enormous difference in the lives of rural Americans in FY 2010. From helping tens of thousands of families repair or purchase a home, to large-scale investments to develop broadband infrastructure across dozens of counties, USDA Rural Development employees were helping build better lives for the American people. I am confident that the investments we have made will have a lasting, sustainable impact, and provide jobs and economic activity to keep rural America vibrant and prosperous in the future.”

Tom Vilsack
Secretary
United States Department of Agriculture

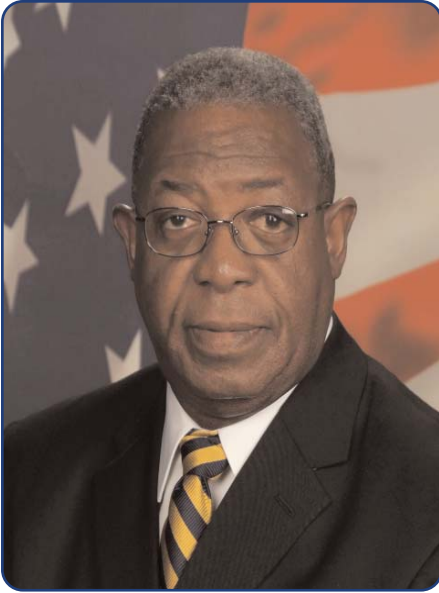
Dallas Tonsager
Under Secretary
USDA Rural Development



“Our programs had a remarkable impact in rural America. In FY 2010, we delivered direct assistance to an unprecedented number of worthy recipients thanks to the boost in Federal funding that was possible through the Recovery Act in addition to our regular appropriations. USDA Rural Development – through our array of financial assistance programs, but especially through our talented and dedicated employees serving in local offices across the country – truly makes a difference in quality of the lives of rural Americans, and in the communities in which they live.”

Dallas Tonsager
Under Secretary
USDA Rural Development

Clarence W. Hawkins
Louisiana State Director
USDA Rural Development



Clarence W. Hawkins
State Director
USDA Rural Development

"We at USDA Rural Development in Louisiana are committed to the future of rural communities."

Having completed my first year since being appointed State Director for USDA Rural Development in Louisiana, I have had the opportunity to see the impact that our programs and services are making throughout our great state. My emphasis this year has been to make certain the people who need us the most are aware of the opportunities available through USDA Rural Development. As I continue to travel the rural roads of Louisiana promoting these services, it is evident that USDA Rural Development is helping to change the way rural families are living today.

In Louisiana, we have invested over \$1.2 billion in loans and or grants through our Business and Cooperative Programs, Housing Programs, and Community Programs. The American Recovery & Reinvestment Act of 2009 provided additional funds for USDA Rural Development projects in 2009/2010 to jumpstart and stimulate economic growth throughout our State. These funds are providing affordable housing opportunities, improving our community facilities, expanding broadband access, promoting energy assistance, and creating economic development opportunities. Through our programs and services, we have created and saved jobs for our rural communities.

I challenged the Louisiana Rural Development staff to reach out to the citizens of our state to better educate them on the opportunities that exist to realize the dream of owning a new home, improving their community facilities, and developing or enhancing a business. From South to North Louisiana, we now see new homes, schools, medical clinics, water and sewer systems, hotels, community buildings, new fire trucks, hospitals, and businesses. We will continue developing our partnerships with State, Federal, private, public, and non-profit entities. My staff and I will continue to serve those in need as we help to develop, improve, revitalize, and transform the rural communities of our state.

Clarence W. Hawkins
State Director
USDA Rural Development - Louisiana

Single Family Housing Programs

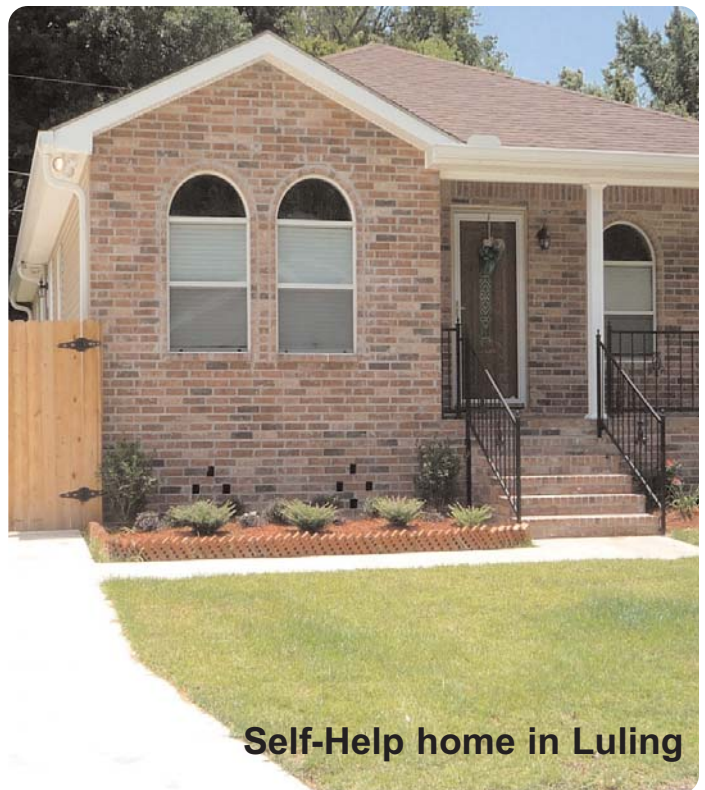
Providing affordable homeownership opportunities in Louisiana

\$886,946,718 invested in Single Family Projects

USDA Rural Development is helping rural Louisiana residents achieve the dream of owning their own home. The Single Family Housing Program is indispensable to vibrant rural communities in Louisiana. USDA Rural Development offers direct and guaranteed loans to help very low to moderate-income rural households buy, build, rehabilitate, or improve homes. USDA Rural Development funds are used to provide individuals with an opportunity to purchase a safe and affordable home.

The Single Family Housing Program offers:

- 502 Direct and Guaranteed loans
- 504 Direct loans for assistance for very low-income homeowners for repairs
- 504 Grant funds for very low-income homeowners age 62 and older who cannot afford a loan for repairs
- Self-Help loans and technical assistance



Self-Help home in Luling

Equity

Like many Americans the thought of owning a home seemed impossible for Timothy and Summer Holloway and their three children. A life of renting was not what they had envisioned when they got married. Timothy had not given up on the dream of owning a home. An electrician by trade, Timothy was always working on existing and new construction residential properties.

One day while working in a subdivision in West Monroe, Louisiana, he noticed an existing home for sale. The property was listed for sale by a local real estate agency that was familiar with the USDA Rural Development 502 Direct Housing program. After a tour of the house by Timothy and Summer, they knew this was the home they wanted.



The wheels of fate started to turn, and within a few weeks Timothy and Summer had been issued a certificate of eligibility by the local USDA Rural Development Office. The dream of owning a home was about to become a reality. The existing home nestled in a quaint subdivision of North Louisiana was purchased with the use of funds from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

Timothy, Summer, and their three children could not be happier. They are so thankful to USDA Rural Development for allowing them to own a home with a house payment for the same amount as they were paying for rent.

Multi-Family Housing Programs

Providing affordable rental housing in Louisiana

\$52,751,462 invested in Multi-Family Projects

USDA Rural Development's Multi-Family Housing Program provides affordable rental housing opportunities for the elderly, persons with disabilities, and very low to moderate-income families. Rural Rental Housing loans are made to finance building construction and site development of multi-family living quarters for people with low and moderate incomes. The Housing Preservation Grant Program provides grants to organizations for the repair or rehabilitation of low and very low-income housing.

Multi-Family Housing loans can be made to:

- Individuals
- Trusts
- Associations
- Partnerships
- Limited partnerships
- State or local public agencies
- Cooperatives
- Profit or non-profit corporations



Marksville Senior Village

Assistance

Painting has always been a passion and hobby for Michael Augusta who is mobility impaired. Michael moved from Texas to Avoyelles Parish and was able to locate an apartment with the design features that were perfect to accommodate his needs.



USDA Rural Development oversees Marksville Senior Village, a Multi-Family housing complex that had a unit available and designed to fit his needs. A minimum of five percent of the units at USDA Rural Development complexes have features for individuals with mobility impairments. In addition, the complexes can make reasonable accommodations to meet a tenant's needs.



USDA Rural Development Multi-Family Specialist Peggy Aycock made a visit to Michael's apartment and checked to see if any improvements were needed.

Contact the Area Office near you:
Monroe Area Office 318.343.4467
Natchitoches Area Office 318.352.7100
Lafayette Area Office 337.262.6601
Amite Area Office 985.748.8751

Business and Cooperative Programs

Creating jobs and strengthening the economy in Louisiana

\$116,470,942 invested in B & I Projects

USDA Rural Development's Business and Cooperative Programs help rural business owners and entrepreneurs face the challenges that they might encounter with operating a business. USDA Rural Development's Business and Cooperative Programs have helped to fund projects that created and preserved quality jobs, and expanded the workforce in Louisiana. USDA Rural Development has worked hard to encourage economic development opportunities throughout the State. USDA Rural Development programs assist business leaders, corporations, cooperatives, public bodies, non-profit corporations, Indian tribes, and private companies in reaching their economic development goals.

USDA Rural Development Business and Cooperative loans may be used for:

- Working capital
- Machinery and equipment
- Buildings and real estate
- Debt refinancing

Contact the Louisiana State Office
Business and Cooperative Department
318.473.7960 for more information



Opportunity

Down in St. Tammany Parish along the North Shore of Lake Pontchartrain you will find Bayou Country General Store. The owners received a Business and Industry guaranteed loan to assist with the operation of their business, which supports alligator farms, honey farmers, grain and mill farms, vegetable farms, book publishers, bread bakeries, and souvenir suppliers.



This company has stimulated the local community, provided additional markets for their products, and contributed to the “Know Your Farmer, Know Your Food” campaign by utilizing state and local farmers, producers, and suppliers. At this site, you can purchase Louisiana pralines prepared daily right in the store, as well as enjoy the local favorite award winning gumbo. Do not worry if you think you are lost in Bayou Country, because there is a tourist information desk for your assistance located inside the store.

USDA Rural Development funds were used to assist the owners with refinancing of an existing debt and provided working capital which enabled them to expand and create more jobs in their community. This business offers high value and specialized services, provides a market for existing local businesses, and is locally owned.



Rural Energy For America Program

Efficiency improvements to operations

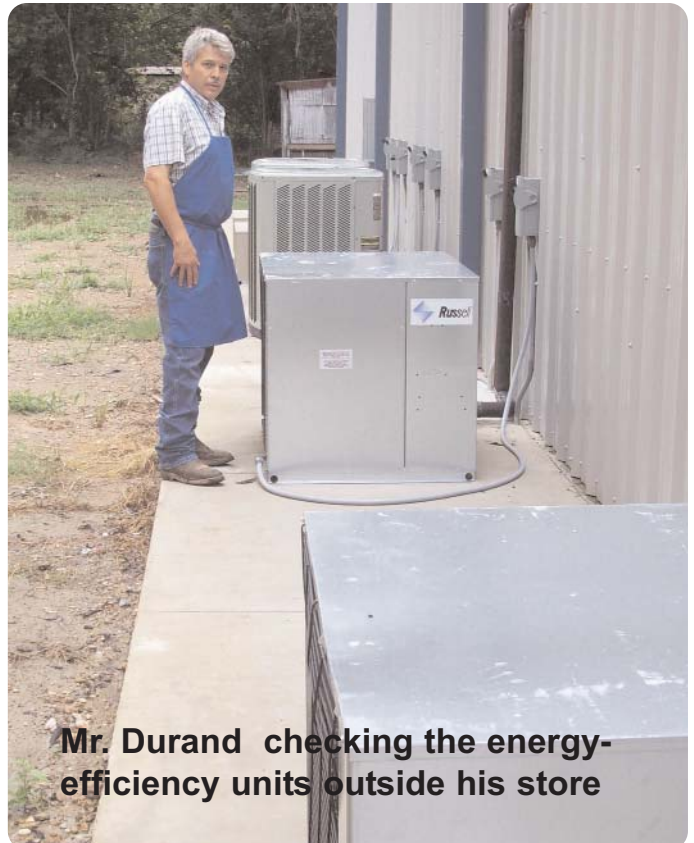
\$1,815,724 invested in REAP Projects

USDA Rural Development's Rural Energy for America Program (REAP) offers assistance to farmers, ranchers, and rural small businesses in developing renewable energy systems, and in making energy-efficiency improvements to their operations. Energy-efficiency projects involve installing or upgrading equipment to reduce energy use.

USDA Rural Development provides energy assistance for:

- Grants
- Guaranteed loans
- Combination grants/guaranteed loans
- Renewable energy systems
- Energy-efficiency improvements

Contact Kevin Boone, Renewable Energy Coordinator at 337.262.6601 ext. 133 for more information on the Rural Energy for America Program in Louisiana



Mr. Durand checking the energy-efficiency units outside his store

Savings

USDA Rural Development received an inquiry about grant assistance to purchase energy-efficient equipment for a small grocery store in Mansura. After a review of the small business owner's needs, USDA Rural Development assisted the applicant in locating a low-cost energy auditor and a non-profit organization willing to assist with the application preparation for the Rural Energy for America Program.

The applicant decided to go along with the energy auditor's recommendations and installed new refrigeration and cooling units for meat and produce cases, new energy efficient lighting, a tankless water heater, new heating, ventilation, and an air conditioning system. The improvements projected a 22% reduction in current electrical usage.

The applicant received a REAP grant of \$47,039, which was 25% of the total project cost. Since completion, the applicant has noticed a substantial reduction in electrical consumption with a monthly average dollar savings of \$1,600. The savings exceeded projections the first month after installations with over a 50% reduction in energy cost.

With these savings, he will be able to provide increased inventory to customers and is contemplating hiring an additional employee.



Community Programs

Improving the quality of life in rural communities

\$63,557,452 invested in Community Projects

In Louisiana, USDA Rural Development works hard to help provide essential facilities in communities for public use resulting in a better quality of life. The Water and Waste Disposal Loan and Grant Program provides financing for water, sanitary sewerage, solid waste disposal, and storm wastewater facilities. Through the Community Facilities Program, USDA Rural Development is striving to ensure that communities are readily available to build stronger, more vibrant community facilities. USDA Rural Development can assist with loan and grant opportunities to improve infrastructure within rural communities. Other yearly funding opportunities includes; Solid Waste Management and Technical Assistance and Training grants, and the Rural Community Development Initiative.

USDA Rural Development Community Programs funds may be used to build or improve:

- Communication centers
- Police and fire stations and trucks
- Health care facilities
- Libraries
- Schools
- Water and waste systems
- Street improvements and more



Growth

Fire Protection District No. 4 in Allen Parish submitted an application to USDA Rural Development for financial assistance to purchase four new fire trucks and related equipment. USDA Rural Development officials worked with the Fire District and provided a loan in the amount of \$865,000 for this project.

On April 8, 2010, Fire Protection District No. 4 of the Parish of Allen was able to purchase four new fire trucks and related equipment.

As a result of USDA Rural Development funding, Fire Protection District No. 4 of the Parish of Allen will be able to provide better fire protection services, and the residents of Allen Parish will have access to improved first responder services within their community.



Contact the Area Office near you:
Monroe Area Office 318.343.4467
Natchitoches Area Office 318.352.7100
Lafayette Area Office 337.262.6601
Amite Area Office 985.748.8751



Broadband Initiatives Program

Expanding and improving access to rural communities

\$52,967,355 invested in Broadband Projects

USDA Rural Development officials worked hard to bring high-speed internet access to underserved areas throughout Louisiana. Over \$82 million has been invested throughout Louisiana for new or improved infrastructure. These funds were made possible with the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act and delivered through USDA Rural Development's Broadband Initiatives Program. These projects will create jobs and connect rural families in Louisiana to the rest of the world and enhance the quality of life in rural Louisiana communities.

USDA Rural Development Broadband funds can be used to:

- Construct
- Lease
- Acquire facilities
- Acquire equipment

Contact the Area Office near you:
Monroe Area Office 318.343.4467
Natchitoches Area Office 318.352.7100
Lafayette Area Office 337.262.6601
Amite Area Office 985.748.8751



Stronger Economies Together (SET) Program

Louisiana was one of eight states selected this year to participate in the National “Stronger Economies Together” (SET) Program. This program is administered in Louisiana by USDA Rural Development, in conjunction with the Southern Rural Development Center, Louisiana Economic Development, and the AgCenters at Louisiana State and Southern Universities.



Regions selected for participation include the Louisiana Delta Coalition which covers the parishes of East Carroll, Franklin, Madison, Morehouse, Richland, Tensas, West Carroll, Concordia, Catahoula, Jackson, and Ouachita. The Pointe Coupee and West Feliciana Cooperative Development Initiative based in New Roads, encompasses both Pointe Coupee and West Feliciana Parishes. The Northshore Parishes Alliance is comprised of St. Helena, Tangipahoa, and Washington Parishes. The Acadiana Regional Development District covers areas of the state known as Acadiana, which includes the parishes of Acadia, Evangeline, St. Landry, and St. Martin. Coordinating and Development Corporation, a Shreveport based organization, encompasses the parishes of Bienville, Bossier, Caddo, Claiborne, DeSoto, Lincoln, Natchitoches, Red River, Sabine, and Webster parishes in Louisiana.

These regions are receiving intensive strategic planning and training for their regional teams; database tools specifically designed to help the regional teams examine the critical drivers of their region and identify emerging growth sectors and regional competitive advantages; technical assistance, and educational support.



Program Funding 2010

2010 Investment in Louisiana	
Business & Industry Guaranteed Loans	\$115,108,700
Rural Business Enterprise Grant Program	832,956
Rural Business Opportunity Grant Program	70,000
Rural Energy for America Program	1,815,724
Value-Added Producer/Small Socially-Disadvantaged Producer Grant	244,286
1890 Cooperative Agreement Program	215,000
Water and Waste Disposal Loan and Grant Program	47,977,518
Community Facility Loan and Grant Program	16,579,934
Broadband Loan and Grant Program	52,967,355
Section 515 Rural Rental Program	16,158,157
Section 521 Rental Assistance Program	35,743,817
Section 533 Housing Preservation Grant Program	289,488
Section 538 Guaranteed Rural Rental Program	560,000
Section 502 Single Family Housing Program	51,065,913
Guaranteed Single Family Housing Program	833,654,073
Section 504 Home Repair Loan and Grant Program	2,226,732
TOTAL	\$1,175,509,653

Request For Information

Let us know your interests or questions, and Louisiana's USDA Rural Development staff will respond by fax, e-mail, mail, or schedule a visit with you.

Name _____

Company _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____ Fax _____

e-mail address _____

☐ I am familiar with USDA Rural Development programs.

☐ I just learned about USDA Rural Development programs.

If you just learned about USDA Rural Development programs, where did you hear about our programs?

I have the following question(s) about USDA Rural Development programs:

I prefer to receive information by:

☐ telephone call

☐ fax

☐ e-mail

☐ mail

I would like to receive more information on:

Single Family Housing

Eligible Applicants: Individuals

☐ Direct Homeownership Loans

☐ Guaranteed Homeownership Loans

☐ Home Repair Loans and Grants

Community

Eligible Applicants: Public Entities, Indian Tribes, and Non-Profit Organizations

☐ Direct Loans and Grants for Water and Waste Disposal

☐ Guaranteed Loans for Water and Waste Disposal

☐ Direct Loans and Grants for Community Facilities

☐ Guaranteed Loans for Community Facilities

Business and Cooperative

Eligible Applicants: Profit or Non-Profit Organizations, Indian Tribes; Public Bodies, or Individuals

☐ Guaranteed Loans for Business and Industry

Eligible Applicants: Public Bodies, Non Profits, Indian Tribes, and Cooperatives

☐ Rural Business Opportunity Grants

Eligible Applicants: Public Bodies and Non-Profits

☐ Rural Business Enterprise Grants

☐ Intermediary Relending Program Loans

Eligible Applicants: Electric and Telephone Cooperatives

☐ Rural Economic Development Loans and Grants

Eligible Applicants: Agricultural Producers and Small Businesses

☐ Renewable Energy/Energy Efficiency Loans and Grants

Eligible Applicants: Agricultural Producers

☐ Value-Added Producer Grants

Multi-Family Housing

Eligible Applicants: Individuals, Profit, and Non-Profit Organizations

☐ Direct Loans to Construct or Rehabilitate Rental Housing

☐ Guaranteed Loans to Construct or Rehabilitate Rental Housing

☐ Farm Labor Housing

Eligible Applicants: Public Bodies and Non-Profits

☐ Housing Preservation Grants

Fax or Mail This Form

Complete your contact information, check your interest areas, clip this page from the booklet, and return it to us.

By fax:

Fax to: (318) 473-7963

By mail:

Mail to:

USDA Rural Development
ATTN: Public Information Coordinator
3727 Government Street
Alexandria, Louisiana 71302

Contact Us

Alexandria State Office

3727 Government Street
Alexandria, Louisiana 71302
Telephone: (318) 473-7920
Fax: (318) 473-7829

Monroe Area Office

2410 Old Sterlington Road, Suite C
Monroe, Louisiana 71203
Telephone: (318) 343-4467

Parishes Served:

Caldwell, Catahoula, Claiborne, Concordia,
East Carroll, Franklin, Jackson, LaSalle, Lincoln,
Madison, Morehouse, Ouachita, Richland, Tensas,
Union, and West Carroll

Natchitoches Area Office

6949 Louisiana Highway 1 Bypass, Suite 103
Natchitoches, Louisiana 71457
Telephone: (318) 352-7100

Parishes Served:

Avoyelles, Bienville, Bossier, Caddo, DeSoto, Grant,
Natchitoches, Rapides, Red River, Sabine, Vernon,
Webster, and Winn

Lafayette Area Office

Whitney National Bank Building
905 Jefferson Street, Suite 320
Lafayette, Louisiana 70501-7913
Telephone: (337) 262-6601

Parishes Served:

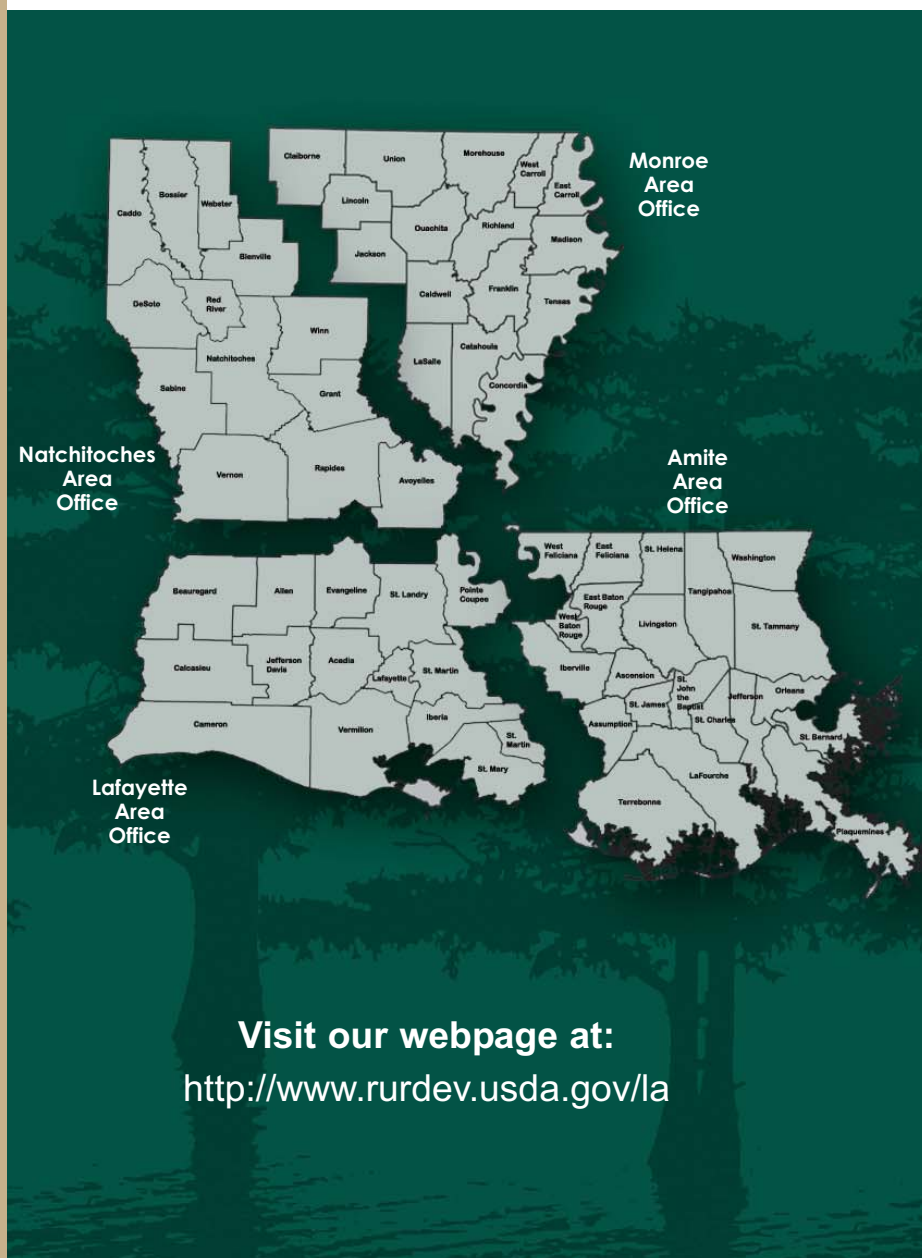
Acadia, Allen, Beauregard, Calcasieu, Cameron,
Evangeline, Iberia, Jefferson Davis, Lafayette,
Pointe Coupee, St. Landry,
St. Martin, St. Mary, and Vermilion

Amite Area Office

805 West Oak Street, Room 3
Amite, Louisiana 70422
Telephone: (985) 748-8751

Parishes Served:

Ascension, Assumption, East Baton Rouge,
East Feliciana, Jefferson, Iberville, Lafourche,
Livingston, Orleans, Plaquemines,
St. Bernard, St. Charles, St. Helena,
St. James, St. John, St. Tammany, Tangipahoa,
Terrebonne, Washington, West Baton Rouge,
and West Feliciana



Visit our webpage at:
<http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/la>



Committed to the future of rural communities.

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